

PRISON OFFICER ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT BULLETIN 7

Your choice, your vote, your pay

I reported last week ([Bulletin 6](#)) that I was concerned that the current position of the union may lead to protracted negotiations and as such result in Correctional Officers missing out on a pay rise from 9 August. I have decided to provide Correctional Officers the opportunity to vote on my offer because:

- it was reported to my representatives by the Union that there were many members who were supportive of my offer as a whole package;
- if we don't go to a ballot, there is lost opportunity for wage increase from 9 August;
- the parties have reached agreement on almost all matters;

While I value the role the Union and delegates have played in getting the negotiations to this point I cannot agree to the two outstanding Union claims. The fairest option will be to give each and every Correctional Officer a chance to decide on whether they wish to accept my offer.

An overview of my offer can be found in [Information Sheet 3](#) and the full details in [Information Sheet 2](#).

Ballot Timetable

Monday 29 September	Distribution and access to the proposed Agreement and explanatory material.
Friday 3 October	Ballot papers posted to employees
Wednesday 8 October	Ballot OPENS (8.00 am)
Friday 17 October	Ballot CLOSSES (10.00 am)

Ballot Process

On Monday 29 September 2014 you will be sent a link to the proposed Agreement and an explanatory document highlighting the changes compared to your current agreement. Employees on leave will be sent details on how to access these documents, and hard copies will be available throughout workplaces.

The ballot process will be conducted by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC), which will involve a mail-out to your nominated address as recorded in MyHR on 11 September 2014. The ballot material will include a ballot paper, ballot envelope and a return post-paid envelope.

Voting will commence from 8.00 am on Wednesday 8 October 2014, and will close at 10.00am on Friday 17 October 2014. If you have recently changed your address, or you don't receive your ballot papers by Friday 10 October 2014, you should contact Peter Burgess at the NT Electoral Commission on 8999 7622 or peter.burgess@nt.gov.au

Ballot counts will be conducted simultaneously at NTEC Offices, Level 3 TCG Centre 80 Mitchell Street Darwin; and MyVote Central Suite 3, Yepperenye Centre Gregory Terrace Alice Springs. During the ballot period employees may also lodge their completed ballot in person at these offices.

Ballot Outcome

If the majority of you who vote in the ballot are in favour of the proposed agreement (a 'yes' vote), and the Fair Work Commission approves the agreement, the initial 3 per cent salary increase will be payable from the first full pay period on or from 9 August 2014.

If the ballot does not result in a 'yes' vote then I will need to consider available options. You should be aware, that in accordance with the NTPS Wages Policy 2013-2016 pay rises will occur from the date we reach agreement meaning there will be no back-pay available.

More Information

For further information on the proposed Agreement, explanatory notes or the ballot process, please contact Helena Glew on 8935 7689, or Sarah McMaster on 8999 4173.

Regular Bulletins and Information Sheets on the bargaining process and proposals are posted on the OCPE website under the [Enterprise Agreement Negotiation Updates page](#).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Allen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

CRAIG ALLEN
Commissioner for Public Employment

26 September 2014